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June 7, 2010

Ms. Cheryl Henlin
City of New Bedford
Department of Environmental Stewardship
133 William Street
New Bedford, Massachusetts 02740

Subject: Spring 2010 Wetland Inspection Keith Middle School, New Bedford, Massachusetts

Dear Ms. Henlin:

In accordance with the Long-Term Monitoring and Maintenance Implementation Plan (LMMIP) prepared by BETA Group, Inc. dated October 20, 2006, for the Keith Middle School (KMS) in New Bedford, Massachusetts, TRC has completed its May 2010 inspection of wetlands abutting the KMS. A TRC senior ecologist conducted the inspection on May 17, 2010. As stated in the LTMMIP, the purpose of the inspection is to visually observe the wetlands and vicinity for unacceptable conditions including indications of excessive sedimentation occurring within the wetlands, including such conditions as, but not limited to, dumping of debris, exposed side slopes, erosion from spring rains, stressed or dead vegetation, animal burrows, slumping and unauthorized excavation.

The inspection consisted of walking the entire slope adjacent to the wetland area and observing areas of potential erosion and sedimentation at the wetland/cap slope interface. Observations were recorded in the Wetland Sediment Inspection Form included as Appendix F of the LTMMIP. A copy of the completed inspection form is provided with this letter as an attachment. Photographs taken during the inspection are also included as an attachment.

In general, the slope extending down to the wetland from the parking lots and rear school access drive is well vegetated with grasses and herbaceous plants. One small area of thin vegetative cover remains within the northwestern portion of the slope. The thin cover revealed the slope stabilization netting used during construction of the slopes. However, this area appears to be currently stabilized with no erosion evident with increased vegetation present since the 2009 site inspection. Overall, no evidence of erosion or sedimentation into the adjacent wetland was noted during the site inspection.

A woodchuck burrow is present within the northwestern portion of the wetland/cap slope edge. The resident(s) of this burrow should be trapped and removed and the burrow filled in to minimize further disruption to the cap integrity.

In addition, several small tree saplings are present on the cap slope. In order to prevent the roots of these trees from penetrating further into the cap as well as to minimize the potential for additional slope failure should these trees be toppled by wind when they become larger, it is recommended that these saplings be cut periodically (once a year). A few stands of the invasive plant Japanese knotweed (*Polygonum japonica*) are also present in the vicinity of stormwater outfalls and in the southern portion of the wetland/ cap slope. These plants form a dense overstory that precludes understory vegetation from becoming established due to the heavy shading. Erosion is more likely to occur beneath the Japanese knotweed stands due to the absence of the ground vegetation. It is recommended that the knotweed stands be periodically cut during the growing season (once a month) so that understory vegetation can become established.

The area of slope failure previously noted during the 2008 inspection has been stabilized with riprap and appears to be stable. The silt fence previously installed downgradient of the repaired area should be removed.

Other recommendations regarding the slope conditions and stabilization/repair have been provided under a separate Cap Inspection report by TRC. Implementation of these recommendations will adequately protect the wetlands from any future erosion and sedimentation issues that may occur.

If you have any questions regarding this report, please contact me at 978-656-3583 or David Sullivan at 978-656-3565.

Sincerely,

Scott J. Heim

Scott J. Heim
Senior Ecologist

Attachments

Attachment W-1

Wetland Sediment Inspection Form

WETLAND SEDIMENT INSPECTION FORM
KEITH MIDDLE SCHOOL

Use this inspection form to document annual inspections. If unacceptable conditions are observed, complete an additional form immediately after repairs are completed.

Inspection Date: 5-17-10 Inspection By: Scott Heim

A. SLOPE BETWEEN SCHOOL AND WETLAND -

Is slope condition acceptable? ☐ YES ☒ NO

(look for dumped debris or waste; stained soil; erosion of soil on slope leading down to wetland; subsidence or slumping of greater than two inches of soil on slope; dead vegetation, if such vegetation is required for erosion control; animal burrows; and/or evidence of unauthorized excavation)

If no, attach photograph ☒

If no, describe unacceptable condition:

Location Northwestern portion of wetland / landfill slope

Condition Woodchuck burrow present

Describe any repairs to slope conducted since previous inspection:

None. Previously repaired slope in 2008.

All repairs adequate? ☒ YES ☐ NO Photograph of repair attached ☒

B. WETLAND -

Is wetland condition acceptable? ☒ YES ☐ NO

(look for dumped debris or waste, stained soil, visible accumulation of mineral sediment in wetland, and/or evidence of unauthorized excavation)

If no, attach photograph ☐

If no, describe unacceptable condition:

Location

Condition No sedimentation noted

Describe any repairs to wetland conducted since previous inspection:

N/A

All repairs adequate? ☐ YES ☐ NO Photograph of repair attached ☐

Attachment W-2

Site Photographs

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2010 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts

1) Slope in central portion of wetland/cap edge looking north.

2) Partially blocked culvert outlet near central portion of wetland/cap edge.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2010 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts

3) Area of thin vegetative cover in northwestern portion of cap slope. Note woodchuck burrow in lower central portion of photograph.

4) Woodchuck burrow along northwestern portion of slope. Note slope netting at top of burrow entrance.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2010 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts

5) Area of thin vegetative cover in northwestern portion of wetland/cap slope.

6) Small cherry sapling along northern cap slope.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2010 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts

7) Southern portion of cap slope. Note small locust sapling in center of photo.

8) Previously repaired portion of cap slope.

SITE PHOTOGRAPHS
May 2010 Wetland Inspection
Keith Middle School
New Bedford, Massachusetts

9) Southern portion of wetland/cap slope. Vegetation is well established.

10) Stand of Japanese knotweed along southern portion of wetland/cap slope.